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**DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATION
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December 24, 2013

To: D4 Attorneys

From: Kent V. Wirth

RE: Individual Case Assignment

On January 1, 2014 individual case assignment will be implemented in the Fourth District. Civil law and equity cases, family law cases, temporary restraining orders, emergency injunctions, post-conviction relief and estate cases will be assigned to a specific judge. All pending cases will be assigned to a judge within the next 30 days, priority will be given to cases currently scheduled for trials and hearing. Notice of this assignment will be sent to counsel of record. Criminal cases, child support filed by Child Support Recovery Unit, mortgage foreclosures and domestic abuse (Chapter 236) will not be specially assigned.

Cases currently scheduled either trial or hearing will remain on the schedule as currently set. While these cases have been assigned to a judge, to keep the scheduled date it may be necessary to have a different judge preside at the trial or hear the motion. If you have questions regarding which judge has been assigned to your case, which judge is hearing a motion or presiding at a trial you may contact our office at anytime. When a case has been assigned to a judge you will receive a notice identifying the judge. This judge will hear all motions and preside at the trial. Again we are currently working on these assignments and notices will be out within the next 30 days.

Judges will continue to rotate through all counties within the district. Motion days will continue to be held on Mondays in all counties and the judge will continue to rotate through the counties as they have in the past. The judge assigned to each county for the motion day will also serve as the criminal judge for the month and be responsible for any criminal trials and monitoring the judicial queues for any criminal filings. In Pottawattamie County, there will be two criminal judges on Monday. Judges will be able to schedule civil motions for multiple counties on the Monday motion or use another days during the week for hearings. Again as we

work through the transition it may be necessary to have a judge other than the designated judge hearing motions in a case.

In cases filed after January 1, 2014 the judge will be assigned within 5 days of the petition being filed. The function of assigning a judge to a case will be completed by court administration staff. Marsha Weberg, Lori Johannes and Emily Hartmann will be responsible for making these assignments and distributing the notices. The assignments will be made on a rotation with a judge being assigned every eighth case. Judges will also be working with specific case schedules in the future.

- Lori Johannes Judge Eveloff, Judge Larson and Judge Richardson
- Emily Hartmann Judge Kilnoski, Judge O'Grady and Judge Steensland
- Marsha Weberg Judge Davidson and Judge Heckerman.

Miscellaneous scheduling:

- In dissolution cases filed after January 1, 2014 if an application for a temporary hearing is filed with the petition it will be directed to the assigned judge to be addressed.
- If a motion to continue is filed in a matter counsel may obtain:
 - Attorneys may obtain a new date from court administration to be included in the motion to continue. A proposed order with the new trial date can be submitted with the motion.
 - The judge and attorneys may contact court administration at the time the request to continue is heard by the court
 - The court may order a new trial setting conference be scheduled

We will continue to develop and refine these principles and will keep you apprised of these changes. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments